

Part V : Legislative Measures to Counter the Three Pillars of Authoritarian Power in the United States

Pillar One: Foreign Influence

Threat: External destabilization through compromised leadership and disinformation.

Counter-Strategies :

- **Mandatory financial transparency for officials**
Require detailed, standardized public financial disclosures from all senior elected officials, cabinet members, judges, and key agency heads, including assets, debts, beneficial ownership interests, and major transactions. Disclosures must be updated annually and before and after holding office, with strong penalties for omissions or misstatements.
- **Independent foreign influence audits**
Create a nonpartisan Foreign Influence Audit Office with authority to review the foreign financial ties, business interests, and lobbying connections of high-risk officeholders and appointees. Mandate regular risk assessments for national security positions and top economic regulators, with public summaries and required mitigation plans when conflicts are found.
- **International anti-money-laundering enforcement**
Eliminate anonymous shell companies through beneficial ownership registries, require real-estate and high-value financial transactions to report ultimate owners and source of funds, and extend anti-money-laundering obligations to professional “gatekeepers” (law firms, accounting firms, certain trust services). Coordinate with allies via joint task forces to track, freeze, and recover illicit funds used to buy influence.

- **Intelligence cooperation restoration**

Codify safeguards that insulate intelligence analysis from partisan manipulation and require transparent sharing of threat assessments with relevant democratic institutions. Rebuild and formalize information-sharing agreements with allied democracies on cyber threats, disinformation campaigns, and corruption networks that target elections and public opinion.

- **Media literacy and disinformation resilience programs**

Establish national media-literacy curricula in K-12 schools and adult education, teaching people how to verify sources, recognize manipulation, and spot deepfakes. Fund public-interest journalism, independent fact-checking, and early-warning systems that identify coordinated disinformation campaigns, paired with rapid, transparent public responses that explain—not censor—how people are being targeted.

Core Weakness to Exploit: Authoritarian systems rely on secrecy, captured elites, and unchallenged narratives; robust transparency, allied coordination, and a media-literate public erode their leverage.

Pillar Two: Domestic Oligarchs

Threat: Monopoly Control of Businesses, loss of protections by deregulation, and poverty by income inequality.

Counter-Strategies:

- **Progressive taxation of extreme wealth**

Implement a graduated wealth or minimum tax on ultra-high-net-worth households, close loopholes (such as preferential treatment of carried interest and stepped-up basis), and levy excess-profits taxes in crisis periods. Earmark revenue for universal programs—healthcare, childcare, housing, and education—so the public can see concrete benefits from curbing extreme concentration of wealth.

- **Antitrust enforcement with criminal penalties**
Modernize antitrust laws to address digital platforms, data monopolies, and “killer acquisitions.” Add criminal liability for executives who repeatedly engage in intentional anti-competitive practices, and create fast-track procedures for structural remedies such as breakups, forced interoperability, and data portability. Publish regular market-concentration reports so the public can track progress.
- **Public banking and payment systems**
Establish public options for basic banking—low-fee accounts, real-time payments, and small-dollar credit—delivered through postal branches or community institutions. Create state and municipal public banks focused on local infrastructure and small-business lending, reducing dependence on large private banks and payday lenders.
- **Labor empowerment and sectoral bargaining**
Strengthen the right to organize through faster union elections, serious penalties for employer retaliation, and easier first-contract procedures. Pilot sector-wide bargaining in key industries (care work, logistics, hospitality), setting minimum standards for wages, hours, and benefits that apply across competing firms. Require large corporations to include worker representatives on boards.
- **Data protection and public data trusts**
Treat personal data as a protected right, with strict limits on collection, retention, and sale. Ban government mass-surveillance partnerships with private data brokers. For critical datasets, create public data trusts governed by independent boards with a clear public-interest mandate, transparent access rules, and strong penalties for abuse.

Core Weakness to Exploit: Oligarchic power depends on secrecy, monopoly, and manufactured insecurity; transparency, competition, strong labor, and data rights dismantle these levers.

Pillar Three: Christian Nationalism

Threat: Imposition of strict religious laws and loss of personal freedom and rights

Counter-Strategies:

- **Absolute protection of freedom of belief and freedom from coercion**
Enshrine in law that people are free to hold any faith or none, and equally free from government-imposed religious practices. Prohibit compulsory prayer, religious tests for office, and discrimination in public services based on belief or non-belief. Provide fast legal remedies when public institutions cross this line.
- **Secular public education standards**
Require publicly funded schools to use evidence-based curricula in science, history, and civics. Protect teachers and administrators from ideological purges when they teach established scholarship. Make curriculum-adoption processes transparent and shield them from sectarian capture, while leaving room for families and communities to teach their own traditions outside state institutions.
- **Enforcement of church–state separation**
Strengthen enforcement units in civil-rights and education agencies to investigate and remedy violations of church–state separation. Clarify that public officials may hold personal beliefs, but cannot use government power to impose doctrine or grant special privileges to any religion. Provide dedicated litigation support to individuals and communities harmed by coercive religious policies.
- **Interfaith and secular coalitions**
Build broad coalitions of mainline Christians, evangelicals opposed to coercion, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Indigenous spiritual communities, and secular/humanist groups around shared commitments to pluralism and non-coercion. Support joint public statements, rapid-response teams when any group is targeted, and shared service projects that model cooperation instead of domination.
- **Narrative reframing: faith as personal, not governmental**
Promote messages that resonate across beliefs: “Faith that is free is stronger

than faith that is forced”; “Government-run religion harms both democracy and genuine belief.” Elevate voices of religious people who have been harmed by coercive politics and leaders who reject fusing their faith with state power.

Encourage media, educators, and community leaders to highlight stories where pluralism and mutual respect succeed.

Core Weakness to Exploit: Christian nationalism loses legitimacy when its coercive nature is named and seen; emphasize freedom of conscience, pluralism, and the harm done by state-enforced religion undercuts its claim to moral authority.
